

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRASIL 02097 101201Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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EUR-12 AF-06 /106 W

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R 101100Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4429

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 2097

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR BR GY

SUBJECT: GUYANESE AMBASSADOR TO BRAZIL BLAMES MULTINATIONALS  
FOR CAMPAIGN AGAINST GUYANA; GUYANAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S DENIAL

REFS: (A) BRASILIA 1797 (B) BRASILIA 2040

SUMMARY: AFTER LAST WEEK'S PRESS SPECULATIONS AND REPORTS ABOUT UNUSUAL DEVELOPMENTS ALONG THE GUYANA-BRAZIL FRONTIER (SEE REFTELS) AMBASSADOR SIMEON N. SELMAN GAVE HIS VIEWS TO THE PRESS ON THE REASONS BEHIND THE RUMOR MONGERING CONCERNING HIS COUNTRY AND SCORED THE INACCURACIES PUBLISHED ABOUT GUYANA AND ITS POLICIES. A LETTER FROM GUYANESE FOREIGN MINISTER WILLS TO FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA HAS CATEGORICALLY DENIED CUBAN OR OTHER FOREIGN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN GUYANA, THOUGH SKEPTICISM AND SUSPICION PERSISTS HERE. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR SEMEON NEVILLE SELMAN IN AN IMPASSIONED DEFENSE OF GUYANA'S POLICIES IN AN INTERVIEW IN MARCH 7 O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO CHARGED THAT THE "NEGATIVE PROPAGANDA" CIRCLATING ABOUT GUYANA WAS MOTIVATED BY THE MULTINATIONAL CORPOORATIONS WHO LOST A LUCRATIVE FIELD OF EXPLOITATION IN GUYANA.

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PAGE 02 BRASIL 02097 101201Z

(AT LEAST ONE PRESS VERSION SAID SELMAN CITED ALCAN)

GUYANA'S ROLE IN ORGANIZING THE BAUXITE PRODUCERS WAS, THE AMBASSADOR ALLEGED, A THREAT TO THEIR TRADITIONAL POLICY, IN ALLIANCE WITH POLITICAL INTERESTS OF SOME "DEVELOPED NATIONS," OF DEBASING THE PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS. GUYANA ALTHOUGH A SOCIALIST COUNTRY, SELMAN ASSURED THE PRESS, WAS NOT SEEKING TO PROSELYTIZE. HE ALSO REMINDED THE JOURNAL THAT HIS COUNTRY WAS NON-ALINGED AND NON-RACIST, HAVING VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE UN RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ZIONISM AS A FORM OF RACISM. (SIC). THE AMBASSADOR DENIED THE ACCUSATION THAT GUYANA WAS ANTI-WHITE AND POINTED OUT HIS NATION WAS AGAINST RACISM IN ALL FORMS. HE EXPRESSED IRRITATION WITH WHAT HE SAW AS THE "REINITIATION OF A CAMPAIGN AGAINST GUYANA, THIS TIME ORGANIZED IN ANOTHER PLACE, TO MAKE BELIEVE THAT THERE EXISTS CUBAN INSTRUCTORS AMONG US."

2. SELMAN ALSO OBSERVED THAT GUYANA IS "PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE" TO VIOLATIONS OF ITS ENTRANCE AND EXIT REGULATIONS. THE BRAZILIAN PRESS, HE NOTED, ADMITTED THE VIOLATION OF THESE LAWS WHEN IT PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE WHICH DESCRIBED A BRAZILIAN JOURNALIST FLYING OVER GUYANESE TERRITORY AND TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS WHICH TECHNICALLY CONSTITUTED VIOLATION OF GUYANA AIR SPACE. IF WE HAD OPENED FIRE, THE AMBASSADOR OPINED, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN WITHIN OUR RIGHTS. THE GUYANESE REPRESENTATIVE CHARGED THE BRAZILIAN PRESS WITH GIVING THE FALSE IMPRESSION THAT BOA VISTA IS NEAR THE FRONTIER AND THUS AN EXCELLENT OBSERVATION POINT FOR THE ACTIVITIES IN THE KIMBIA TRAINING CAMP. KIMBIA, SELMAN NOTED, IS SOME 400 KILOMETERS FROM BOA VISTA IN THE NORTHEASTERN REGION OF GUYANA.

3. THE PRESS MARCH 6 PUBLISHED THE PURPORTED TEXT OF A LETTER FROM GUYANESE FOREIGN MINISTER FRED WILLS TO FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA DENYING THAT CUBAN TROOPS WERE ALLOWED TO STOP-OVER IN GUYANA ENROUTE TO ANGOLA AND THAT A FORCE OF EIGHTEEN-THOUSAND MEN IS BEING TRAINED IN THE INTERIOR BY CUBANS, ASSISTED BY CHINESE AND EAST GERMANY AND THE USSR. ALL THESE ASSERTIONS, THE LETTER DECLARED, ARE ABSOLUTELY FALSE, ADDING THAT GUYANA IS A SMALL OPEN SOCIETY AND THE TRUTH OF THESE RUMORS CAN EASILY BE VERIFIED. THE LETTER CONTINUED THAT GUYANA'S NON-ALINGED CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BRASIL 02097 101201Z

POLICY DOES NOT PERMIT THAT ITS TERRITORY BE USED AS A BASE BY ANY POWER, REGARDLESS OF IDEOLOGY, OR ANY OTHER STATE OF THE HEMISPHERE. GUYANA, ALTHOUGH A SOCIALIST COUNTRY, DOES NOT SEEK TO SELL OR IMPOSE SOCIALISM ON ANY OTHER COUNTRY, INCLUDING THE COUNTRIES OF THIS AREA, AFFIRMED THE NOTE. THE NATIONAL SERVICE SYSTEM IS PART OF THE STRATEGY OF GUYANESE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, IT EXPLAINED, A WAY OF BUILDING A COMMUNITY AND AN INSTRUMENT FOR RAPID ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

MINISTER WILL'S CLOSED BY CITING HIS CONCERN THAT THE PROLONGED DISSEMINATION OF HOSTILE AND INEXACT INFORMATION COULD BE USED IN SOME PLACES IN AN ATTEMPT TO ERODE THE CORDIAL RELATIONS THAT ALWAYS EXISTED BETWEEN THE TWO REPUBLICS. WHILE THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS MADE NO OFFICIAL COMMENT ON SELMAN'S STATEMENTS OR WILL'S LETTER, THE PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT UNIDENTIFIED ITAMARATY SOURCES HAVE STATED THAT THE MINISTRY IS "SATISFIED" WITH THE ASSURANCES GIVEN BY THE GUYANESE.

COMMENT: MOST NOTICEABLE REACTION TO GUYANESE DENIALS SO FAR HAS BEEN ONE OF SKEPTICISM. ARTICLE IN "RESUMEN," COUPLED WITH EXTENSIVE, HIGHLY SPECULATIVE AND SENSATIONALIZED COVERAGE GIVEN BY NORMALLY RESPONSIBLE MAJOR PAPERS, SUCH AS ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO PUBLIC SUSPICIONS THAT GUYANESE DENIALS CAN HARDLY OVERCOME. AMONG MILITARY, WHOSE ATTITUDES ON THIS ISSUE TEND TO BE REFLECTED EDITORIALY IN ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, PREVALENT FEELING IS THAT MARXIST FLAVOR OF GUYANA REGIME, COMPOUNDED BY PRESUMED CUBAN PRESENCE THERE, JOINS SOVIET/CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA AS POTENTIALLY SERIOUS THREAT TO BRAZILIAN SECURITY. REGULARLY ROASTED FOR COMPLACENCY ABOUT CUBAN/SOVIET THREAT IN ANGOLA, ITAMARATY HAS BEEN RELUCTANT SO FAR TO TAKE CLEAR POSITION THAT MIGHT BE SEEN AS DISCOUNTING THREAT OR DEFENDING BURNHAM REGIME. CHARGES MADE BY SELMAN AGAINST MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS ARE STRIKINGLY OUT OF CHARACTER WITH HIS NORMALLY MODERATE, NON-EMOTIONAL AND GENERALLY PRO-WESTERN VIEWS. WE CAN ONLY ASSUME HIS STATEMENTS WERE PREPARED IN GEORGETOWN. END COMMENT.  
CRIMMINS

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**TAGS:** PFOR, EINV, BR, GY, CU, (SELMAN, SIMEON N), (WILLS, FREDERICK R)  
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